

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 19, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Ms. Anne Wall, Ms. Kathleen Pritchard, Mr. John Groothuis, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. William Wolf, Mr. Bob Zoldos and Mr. Jim Hicks. Staff was represented by Jay Banks.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 26, 2001 meeting were approved as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Arbor Day – The next scheduled meeting of the Arbor Day Committee is March 27, 2001 at 12:00 at the same location. Everything is getting finalized. A tent is being supplied towards the house and near the garage. There will be booth space for displays.

Ms. Pritchard asked if everyone signed up. As of right now, there are still some openings. There is a minimum of two people on each day. She said she changed her schedule for Sunday afternoon. A discussion was held on the schedule. Ms. Wall asked that the email for the Flower and Garden sign-up be reissued.

Ms. Pritchard stated she will ask for plastic sleeves again this year.

Ms. Pritchard asked if anyone could get trees (she sent an email on this) for display at their Flower and Garden show booth. Southern States had a display next to the Tree Commission's stand last year. Perhaps they could put some of their trees at the Tree Commission's booth for display.

Mr. Groothuis commented he will be judging for the photo contest for Arbor Day. Ms. Pritchard asked for a photo of a River Birch that could be used for the Commission's display.

Mr. Zoldos asked about the budget. He noticed Mr. Banks put in for \$10,000 for the Tree Commission in the budget. Mr. Banks commented that some projects were dropped such as the arboretum and moved elsewhere.

Mr. Zoldos asked about a comment Mr. Banks made recommending the Tree Commission getting out of the tree planting business. Mr. Banks said he was suggesting that instead of planting specific trees, the Commission should step back and address some of the maintenance issues. Mr. Zoldos asked Mr. Banks how the Tree Commission could address that issue. Mr. Banks replied in several venues -- brochures, increasing promotionals, education, etc.

Eastern Entrance - Mr. Hicks commented on the subject of the Eastern Gateway that when looking at the area, there was little space available to plant trees in that location. Noting this, he suggested the Commission come up with a strong recommendation for options and alternatives for the town and all the development going on, so they have some standards. This would be a

wish list for what the town would like to see happen. Mr. Hower said it would be nice to have a plan similar to the old Market Street plan.

Mr. Banks stated he attended an update for the Rhodeside and Harwell Comprehensive Park Study. The study will be coming out in May with their recommendation for open space and parks, etc. Two of the items of importance to the Commission: (1) A strong recommendation for a comprehensive approach to enhancing the gateways to town. That ties in with the Eastern and Western Gateways. (2) An arboretum is in their conceptual plan.

Mr. Banks passed out the town's vision statement and pointed out that the Commission can gauge this statement with how it fits with the Tree Commission's vision statement. This was written at the Town Council's retreat.

A discussion on the budget ensued.

Mr. Zoldos said that on April 24, the Council will vote on the budget. On April 10, there will be a public hearing on the budget. There will be working sessions between these two dates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hower updated the commission on the riparian buffer planting at Ida Lee Park.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Hower showed the commission examples of signs for trees which may be used in the arboretum.

Mr. Hicks updated the Commission on the last Environmental Advisory Commission meeting.

Mr. Groothius mentioned he was noticing a significant number of older trees being removed from Carvale and Exeter subdivisions. He feels that the trees are being removed because they may have grown bigger than the homeowner wants or there may be tree roots in the sewer line.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Jay Banks, Town Arborist